

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows.

At page 1, line 2, after the Title, please add the following paragraph.

This application is a §371 U.S. national phase application of International Application Number PCT/EP2005/000697, filed January 21, 2005, and claims priority to European Application No. 04075135.6, filed January 22, 2004; and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/543,391, filed February 11, 2004, the entire contents of which are incorporated by reference herein.

At page 4, line 27, please amend the paragraph starting on line 29 as follows.

It is noted that the term nano-particles refers to nano-sized particles. Nano-sized denotes that at least one linear dimension has a mean size of less than one micron ($1\text{ }\mu\text{m} = 1 \times 10^{-6}\text{ m}$), more preferably ~~preferably~~ preferably less than 100 nanometres ($1\text{ nm} = 1 \times 10^{-9}\text{ m}$), and most preferably from 0.1 nanometre to about 100 nanometres. There are nano-sized materials with the nano-size in three dimensions, in two dimensions (nano-tubes having a nano-sized cross-section, but an indeterminate length), or in one dimension (nano-layers having a nano-sized thickness, but an indeterminate area). Preferred aspects of the present invention relate to layered materials which comprise nano-layers. The term "layered material" as used throughout the present specification is meant to denote anionic clays, cationic clays, and layered hydroxy salts. It also includes modified forms of these layered materials, such as acid or base leached clays, pillared clays, and thermally treated layered materials that still have a layered structure. As the staining agents generally are of an anionic nature when present in the ionised form, preferably at least one type of nano-particles having a cationic surface charge is employed.